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DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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CONTENTS

25X1

LEBANON-FEDAYEEN: Beirut fears greater numbers of
Palestinian commandos will move into Lebanon.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

LEBANON-FEDAYEEN: BEIRUT FEARS THAT GREATER NUMBERS OF PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS WILL SOON MOVE INTO LEBANON AND INCREASE THEIR ANTI-ISRAELI OPERATIONS.

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THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE FEDAYEEN ARE ONLY WAITING TO SETTLE THEIR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH JORDAN BEFORE BEGINNING TO SHIFT INTO LEBANON. WHEN THIS OCCURS, PROBABLY WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, BEIRUT WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO TRY TO RESTRICT A MASSIVE INFLUX OF FEDAYEEN, AND LATER, HOW FIRMLY TO OPPOSE ANY INCREASE IN FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS.

PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH REPORTEDLY WILL NOT HESITATE TO ACT FIRMLY IF HE BELIEVES LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY IS AT STAKE. FRANJIYAH IS A TOUGH-WILLED INDIVIDUAL ACCUSTOMED TO MAKING DIFFICULT DECISIONS MORE QUICKLY THAN HIS PREDECESSOR. MOREOVER, THE LEBANESE ARMY, LIKE ITS JORDANIAN COUNTERPART, HAS SOME OLD ACCOUNTS TO SETTLE WITH THE FEDAYEEN. THE ARMY'S CAPABILITY TO HANDLE THE SITUATION IS LIMITED ONLY BY THE FACT THAT IT NEEDS EQUIPMENT [REDACTED] TO INCREASE ITS FIREPOWER.

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DESPITE THE ARMY'S EAGERNESS, THE US MISSION'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE FEDAYEEN WILL BE ALLOWED TO INITIATE ANY CONFRONTATION. FACED WITH THE UNHAPPY AFTERMATH OF THE JORDAN CONFLICT, THE LEBANESE ARE UNLIKELY TO RISK INCURRING THE WRATH OF ARAB LEADERS ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANOTHER INTER-ARAB BLOODBATH.

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